

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 21. Please amend Claims 8, 22, 26 and 39. Please add new Claims 42-48. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) A method of treating an allergic or inflammatory condition associated with IgE-mediated Fc ϵ RI-mediated degranulation and/or Fc γ RIII-mediated degranulation comprising administering to a mammal an effective amount of an antibody agent that binds to CD81 and inhibits Fc ϵ RI-mediated degranulation and/or Fc γ RIII-mediated degranulation IgE-mediated degranulation.

9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is selected from the group consisting of asthma, hay fever and atopic eczema.

10-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 8 21, wherein the anti-CD81 antibody that binds to CD81 is a monoclonal antibody.

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is selected from the group consisting of autoimmune (Type I) diabetes mellitus, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, sarcoidosis, Sjögren's syndrome, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, dermatomyositis, scleroderma, polymyositis, systemic lupus erthematosus, biliary cirrhosis, autoimmune thyroiditis, autoimmune hepatitis, psoriasis, contact sensitivity and atopic dermatitis.

24. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8 wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is passive cutaneous anaphylaxis.
25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the agent does not alter one or more of Fc ϵ R1-induced tyrosine phosphorylation, Fc ϵ R1-induced intracellular calcium mobilization and leukotriene C₄ (LTC₄) production.
26. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein the IgE-mediated allergic or inflammatory condition associated with Fc ϵ RI-mediated degranulation and/or Fc γ RIII-mediated degranulation is mediated by Fc ϵ RI and/or Fc γ RIII an allergic or inflammatory condition associated with Fc ϵ RI-mediated degranulation.
- 27-38. (Canceled)
39. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein the IgE-mediated allergic or inflammatory condition associated with Fc ϵ RI-mediated degranulation and/or Fc γ RIII-mediated degranulation is mediated by Fc ϵ RI an allergic or inflammatory condition associated with Fc γ RIII-mediated degranulation.
40. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is asthma.
41. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8 further comprising administering a physiologically acceptable carrier.
42. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the antibody that binds to CD81 is a polyclonal antibody.
43. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the antibody that binds to CD81 is mAb 5D1.

44. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the antibody that binds to CD81 is mAb 1A12.
45. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is an allergic condition.
46. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is an anaphylactic reaction.
47. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is characterized by mast cell activation.
48. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the allergic or inflammatory condition is characterized by basophil activation.